

2018 – 2019 Clay County Schools PK Information

*Important Statewide Update on Age Requirements:

- Beginning with the 2018 – 2019 school year, the age and month cut off for WV preschoolers has changed.
- Per a bill passed during the 2017 WV Legislative session, children must be **4-years-old on or before June 30, 2018** to enroll in preschool beginning in the Fall of 2018.
- This change will affect all WV preschoolers.
- Help us by making sure that your family, friends and neighbors know about this important change!

*Sign-up

- It's almost time to sign-up your eligible child for the 2018-2019 Clay County Schools FREE preschool.
- Registration dates will be in March and April at each elementary school and at Clay County Schools main office.
- You can prepare now by pulling together the following documents:
 1. State certified birth certificate (this has a raised seal from Vital Statistics)
 2. Current immunization record including lead and hemoglobin results
 3. Current physical exam/well-child check
 4. Current dental exam
 5. Documentation if the child is in custody of someone other than the parent or is homeless (if applicable)
 6. Income verification if Head Start eligible (income tax forms, last year's W2, pay stubs: 4 if paid weekly, 2 if paid bi-weekly)
- The application is not available yet, but will be soon.

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Head Start FAQs

Why was this change made?

During the 2017 WV legislative session, delegates put forward [Senate Bill 186](#), which changed the eligibility date for 4-year-olds statewide. Legislators felt that this was in the best interest of students and educational facilities. The bill was signed by the Governor and is now law.

So, if my child turns four on July 1st, they will not be eligible in 2018?

That is correct. Your child must turn 4 before July 1, 2018, to be eligible for the 2018-2019 preschool class.

So, my child with a birthday between July 1st and August 31st, 2018 will begin PreK as a five-year-old in 2019?

That is correct. Depending on their birthday, they may begin preschool as a 4-year-old or 5-year-old.

Is there any exception to this rule or anything that can be done?

Unfortunately, no. This change is now law across West Virginia. Preschool children ages 3-4 who might have a special need may seek an appointment for screening. Screening of a preschool child does not indicate eligibility. There is no screening for early entry to preschool for students without an identified need.

What was the cutoff date in previous years?

Previously, students could begin preschool if their 4th birthday was on or before August 31st.

What if my child was in preschool this year but has a birthday between July 1st and July 31st? If your preschooler falls in this window, he/she will be allowed to go on to Kindergarten. Students must be 5 before September 1st to be eligible for kindergarten.

What if I want my four-year-old to spend a second year in preschool? In order for a student to spend more than one year in the four-year-old classroom, there must be data to support such a decision. Your child's home school SAT team will make this decision based on the data.